



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund Expands Shelby Trails Park *Shelby County Park Nearly 500 Acres*

Frankfort, Ky. (Dec 11, 2012) - Thanks to funding by the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCHF), Shelby County's newest park has grown to nearly 500 acres. While most of Shelby Trails Park, located just outside of Simpsonville, has been developed for equestrian use, this 80-acre addition will be open to the public for hiking, bird watching and educational programs.

At the deed signing, Shelby County Parks Director Clay Cottongim said, "The Shelbyville/Shelby County Parks and Recreation Board and the fiscal court greatly appreciate the continued partnership with the KHLCHF Board in the purchase of the Hase property located on Aiken Road. This new addition of the park will be utilized for conservation and hiking in the years to come. The parks board and fiscal court have had the privilege of being a partner with KHLCHF in the past with three other pieces of property purchased through this fund for conservation purposes. Again, Shelby County greatly appreciates the cooperation and partnership with KHLCHF."

According to staff biologist Zeb Weese, the KHLCHF Board was interested in the site because of the opportunity to protect a natural area in one of the Commonwealth's most rapidly developing areas. "Although the KHLCHF focuses on protecting properties with ecological significance or rare species, it is also important to protect green space near developing areas. Not only will this property provide habitat for wildlife, it will also create opportunities for environmental education."

The KHLCHF is funded in part by the sale of "Nature's Finest" license plates. With this acquisition, the fund has now protected and conserved over 76,000 acres in 63 counties. For more information, visit the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund website at <http://heritageland.ky.gov> or contact Zeb Weese at 502-573-3080.

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